FEDERATION ★
AND
NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE

Join the C.L.C. NOW

April 1953 6d.

LYTTLETON'S FEDERATION TALKS ARE A FRAUD

THE FEDERATION TALKS scheduled to open in LONDON on April 13th have been devised by the Colonial Office to get together in the main some of the most unrepresentative "representatives" from the various territories of the West Indies, to work out what Whitehall hopes will be a plan to exploit and run the West Indies more efficiently, and at the same time pacify some of the adherents of federation.

These talks are in no way designed to fulfil the wishes of the people for Federation and Independence. For what the British Imperialist Government has in mind and what the West Indian people have in mind when they think of Federation are poles apart.

Even amongst those who have supported the notorious RANCE REPORT there are confusions and second thoughts, as witnessed recently when Grantley Adams, majority leader in the BARBADOS House of Assembly, turned round and attacked the Rance Report, calling for guarantees of freedom of movement in a Federated West Indies (as reported in TORCH, Feb. 7 & 14).

What REAL Federation means—see our special feature on pages 3 & 4

BRITISH GUIANA is to have a senior Government official as an observer at the talks; while British Guiana's biggest and most popular political party which supports a democratic federation will have no say. This illustrates the remoteness from the people and realities of Lyttelton's Federation talks in London. It will not, however, succeed in halting the march of the West Indian people to freedom, whose twin aims are Federation and National Independence.

This West Indian sugar worker is typical of the people who will operate a free, federated West Indies.

Jamaica Workers stand trial

TWENTY T.U.C. members have been charged with intimidation in connection with labour disputes at Hanover, where on January 26th, workers were shot, allegedly by an overseer, at the Orange Bay property of Mr. de Cordova.

The overseer claimed that he was threatened by the defendants, who were demanding work.

The T.U.C. called for sympathy strikes on other sugar cane properties throughout the area.

BRITISH GUIANA RUSHES Through Gag Law

MOVING the suspension of the standing rules of the Legislative Council, the Attorney General yesterday rushed through the second reading of a Bill to ban undesirable literature, films, records and engravings. In the longest session in the history of British Guiana, lasting 9 hours, the bill was passed by an 11 to 2 majority. Hon. Dr. Cheddi Jagan, Leader of the militant People's Progressive Party in an heroic one-man battle to delay and defeat the Bill, spoke for six hours, successfully withstanding all efforts to remove him from the floor.

He accused the Government of rushing through the bill before the elections on April 27th, which will be the first under the new constitution which provides universal adult suffrage and a semi-responsible minsterial government. Jagan charged the government with attempting to deny colonial British subjects the rights and freedoms granted to those residing in England. Replying to a statement of the Attorney General that "the price of liberty is eternal vigilance", Dr. Jagan asked—"Whose liberty—the liberty of the exploited or the liberty of the exploiters?"

The Bill empowers the Governor in Council to prohibit by order any publication, engraving, film or record which is felt to be "contrary to the public interest". Clause 4 makes it an offence punishable by a fine not exceeding $500 or imprisonment not exceeding 12 months or both for any person to import, publish, offer for sale, distribute or reproduce any prohibited publication. Another clause makes it an offence punishable by a fine not exceeding $250 or imprisonment not exceeding 12 months for any person to have in his possession without lawful excuse any prohibited publication.

For two days People's Progressive Party pickets and crowds of hundreds paraded before the public buildings where the Legislative Council sits. Pickets reading "Is the banning of books part of the Declaration of Human Rights?"; "Ban War, not books", "Oppose fascist legislation to ban our books and keep us in ignorance", "Ban illiteracy not books", etc. Hundreds waited in the rain last night until 11.15 p.m. to hear the results of the debate. The Govenor and legislators were booed as they left the public building.

A special citizen's committee is being set up to fight the many inroads on the civil liberties of the people of British Guiana and it is expected that protests will be sent abroad objecting to the "illegality" of the Bill.

PLEASE NOTE

The address of the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) is now:—
17 Bishop's Bridge Road, W.2.

Postmen defeat I.C.F.T.U. in Trinidad

ON the 18th January, the third annual conference of the Postmen's Union was held in Port of Spain.

The Union, up to 31st December, 1952, had a 88% membership among postmen, but Government has refused to recognise it as the bargaining body for postmen.

The Union holds membership in the Trinidad and Tobago Trades Union Council, which is affiliated to the World Federation of Trade Unions.

Delegates from member unions of the T.U.C., the Seamen & Waterfront Workers Trade Union (main I.C.F.T.U. affiliate), the Trinidad Labour Party and the West Indian Independence Party were present at the conference. A thorough explanation for the breakaway engineered by the leaders of the I.C.F.T.U. from the W.F.T.U. was given by John Rojas, President of the T.U.C.

When the resolution for affiliation to the I.C.F.T.U. came up later in the conference, only the movers of the resolution reluctantly voted for it. The resolution was defeated almost immediately.

TRINIDAD — LA ROMAIN LAND TENANTS DEMONSTRATE

MEMBERS of the La Romain United Land Tenants Association travelled by train into Port of Spain on Friday, 13th February to bring to the attention of the legislature and the Government the oppressive conditions of their land tenancy.

Without rhyme or reason, without making any visible improvements, the landlord, one Chandroo, has increased the rental from $5.00 to $15.00 per lot (100 ft. x 50ft.) per year. The tenants have been waging a bitter struggle for months against this unnecessary increase.

The demonstration was met at the railway by Jim Barrett and other members of the W.I.I.P. and taken to Woodford Square where a protracted meeting was held. The riot police were out in force.

Assistant Commissioner of Police, Ogiere tried to intimidate the demonstrators by informing them that they could not demonstrate without police permission. He was loudly booed and warned that "Trinidad was not South Africa". The demonstrators defied the police and demonstrated through the streets of Port of Spain back to the railway.

Appearing on the same platform that day were T.U.B. Butler, Ranjit Kumar, Pope McLean, Quintin O'Connor, Jim Barrett, John La Rose and Brown of the Tenants' Association. **[C.P.N.S.]**

STALIN

THE greatest man of our time has left us. Mankind has lost Stalin—a man of the common people who led and inspired the building of the mighty edifice of socialism, the Soviet Union, and who constantly remained in close touch with the people?

Stalin's entire life was devoted to the struggle for Man's freedom and happiness. He gave unstintingly of himself to this cause, and his reward is the undying affection of countless millions in every corner of the earth, wherever men's hearts beat.

He contributed particularly to the theory and practice of the liberation of the colonial peoples. Through Stalin's leadership, millions of former colonial people are now free, and millions more —guided and inspired by his teachings are breaking the chains of colonial oppression.

Stalin is dead, but his ideas live—the ideas of Marxism, which he developed as Lenin did before him and which is now the common heritage of all peoples.

His work for the freedom and equality of the colonial people has earned him a revered place in their memories.

His name symbolises Peace and Friendship among the peoples, Freedom and National Independence and a Better Life for all?

ALL HONOUR TO THE MEMORY OF STALIN.

CONGRATS!

Congratulations to that happy couple from British Guiana, Pansy and Lionel Jeffrey, on the birth of their son. The "pickney" weighed in at 7½ lbs. and both are doing fine. We understand that Lionel is also recovering from the ordeal and is bursting with pride in being a Daddy. Reports were silent on whether cigars were handed around.

Pansy is a qualified health visitor, and Jeff is studying economics. All the best to the trio.

Best wishes to Keith Thomas and Helja Huuri on their wedding on 28th. March.

Discounts for bulk supply of *Caribbean News*

10 to 24 of one issue	10%
25 to 49 " "	15%
50 to 99 " "	25%
100 or more "	33⅓%

including delivery charges

POWERS *and* PRIVILEGES

ON Friday, 30th January, 1953, the Powers and Privileges Bill was adopted in the legislature by a 15 - 4 majority. The Government in its haste to pass the bill committed a few breaches of procedure.

The Hon. Mitra Sinanan, while attacking the representations made against the bill, felt that it did not go far enough and also wanted to know if the Government was afraid of "a few agitators in Woodford Square".

POLICE RAID

Pickets of the West Indian Independence Party were hampered by rain and a well-timed raid on the premises of John Pool, a member of the Central Executive of the W.I.I.P. The police raiders ransacked the premises for 4 hours in search of banned literature. There is little doubt that the search was intended to dislocate the picketing on the same day. About 30 policemen were on duty around the Legislative Council Chamber.

The bill to reintroduce the "Cat" received its first reading on the same day. Since then the bill has been passed. The Legislature conveniently forgot the description of the "Cat" as "a barbaric instrument of punishment" by a former attorney general at the time the "Flogging" Bill was repealed in 1942.

[C.P.N.S.]

CORONATION *BLAH!*

THE milk and water pomp and ceremony designed for the poor colonials around the Coronation is being stepped up. The inevitable medal will be pinned on thousands of school children lined up to wave little flags and such symbols of "loyalty" (oppression). Already it is reported that one million "officially approved" medals have been ordered for the colonies.

In Jamaica, a slim majority of the Finance Committee approved an increase from £8,000 to £15,000, to be placed at the disposal of the Coronation Committee, over strong opposition.

Mr. Ken Hill, of the N.L.P., estimated expenditure would be nearer £50,000.

The basis of his opposition, however, was that the occasion should be celebrated by the erection of useful amenities like school buildings or water supply schemes to mark the Coronation of the Queen.

But why celebrate at all an occasion which is designed to dope us into accepting the conditions that deprive us of these very schools and water schemes?

We must struggle for our rights to these things without reference to the glorification of the symbol of our oppression. We can only win our freedom by repudiating this symbol of colonialism.

"CN" FUND

The imperialists are attacking "Caribbean News" because they are afraid of it. They have banned it in parts of the West Indies because it exposes the rottenness of imperialism. That is the significance of the attacks on "Caribbean News". Help to keep it going by contributing in shillings and pence to the fund. Give "C.N." the ammunition to carry on the fight.

CARIBBEAN NEWS

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★ Editorial ★

Dangerous Thoughts

IMPERIALISM is lashing out in convulsive spasms against the democratic voice of the people. Faced with the rising mood and awareness of the West Indian people, British imperialism and its running dogs, are attacking what little freedoms the people possess. The Colonial Government in Trinidad in banning "Caribbean News" and other publications is closely followed by the "crazy gang" in British Guiana who think like Goebbels that they stop the people s onward march by banning ideas of freedom and democracy and subjecting advocates of independence who even possess such publications to stiff fines and imprisonment.

This ban applies to so-called "undesirable" literature, records, and engravings. Undesirable that is to the big interests which makes tremendous profits out of the Guianese people, undesirable to British imperialism—and it is aimed in the first place at publications which expose the system of plunder.

But like other places, at other times, the results of such sweeping measures have been felt not only by the extreme left, but also by the most mild expression of democratic thought.

It is significant that this bill has been rushed through just before the elections in British Guiana, when the powers that be are fearing a victory for the People's Progressive Party.

On Record

In its first issue, "Caribbean News" placed on record that it stood for the ordinary people of the West Indies, that it would not compromise with Imperialism and would expose the malpractices of the foreign plunderers. The test that the publication remained true to its principles has been proved to the West Indian people by the imperialist bans on it.

But Goebbels' empire cracked before the hammer blows of democracy, and so will British Imperialism in our days. As Martin Carter has expressed it in his poetry—"the sharp knife of dawn glitters in our hand!"

* * *

Billy Strachan Progressing

THE militant Secretary of the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch)—Billy Strachan—has undergone a successful operation at Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, and is progressing satisfactorily.

Friends and well-wishers who have followed his political fight for West Indian Freedom, and who wish to write to him in hospital, should address letters to F/Lt. B. Strachan, Ward A, Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, S.W.15.

WEST INDIANS DEMAND

Federation and Self-Government NOW

by Billy Strachan

LIKE a palm fringed fan, the West Indian territories spread across some 2,500 miles from the timber forests of British Honduras in Central America across the Caribbean of sapphire blue, far to the upper reaches of the Essequibe river in British Guiana, South America. The 8,000 ft. twin peaks of Mounts Roraima and Kukenaam at the Brazilian/Venezuelan frontiers, stand guard at this southernmost point.

Census puts the population at about 3½ millions. This includes some 16,000 Caribbeans in the table mountains of British Guiana, 12,000 Amerindians beyond the chichele plantations in British Honduras, approximately 800 Negro-caribs at St. Elizabeth, Jamaica and the odd aboriginal mixtures that might exist along the chain of the Greater or Lesser Antilles.

The Negro racial group is predominant with its varying shades, and account for some 2½ million, followed far behind by the descendants of indentured Indian labourers, about half a million (concentrated in Trinidad and British Guiana). The remainder are the products of the centuries-old melting pot, into which has been thrown, English and Scottish convict and gentry, Portuguese, French, and Chinese traders and settlers.

The economy to-day is agricultural. British civil servants control the official Government machines and operate the pomp and brutality of a Governor.

Notwithstanding the talk of Constitutional Advances in the post-war years, final decisions still remain in the hands of the Governors, who may override any elected legislators' voting, "in the interest of good order and good government". Cases arise repeatedly of the Governors violating unanimous elected members' decisions; as, in Nigeria, so in British Honduras, St. Vincent, Grenada. These insults only sharpen the existing tension between the West Indian people and the British overseers in the Caribbean.

Sugar was King

Until 1807, the trading of human beings was legal and recognised as private enterprise for the great seafarers of Medieval England. They set out from London, returning to Bristol and Liverpool on the wicked exploits of building the British Empire. JOHN HAWKINS' name is still remembered throughout the islands. His contribution alone, from Negro slave trading, to the moral and financial debt that Britain owes the West Indian people, haunts every one of our demands. It has been repeatedly recalled in Legislatures and West Indian political conferences.

First the Spanish, then the British, in some cases the Dutch and the French plantation owners destroyed our names, our culture, and our language. For obvious reasons, the only things they could not destroy was ourselves, our labour power. Who would tend the sugar canes, load the sacks of molasses, and bear the white man's burden in everlasting temperatures from sunrise to sunset, between 85 - 95 degrees?

Sugar was king. Profits were high. Poverty was rife.

Early in this 20th century the necessity for some collective bargaining became obvious and the first few steps were taken. British Guiana and St. Vincent vie for the honours, as pioneers in this field; and by 1926, the BRITISH GUIANA & WEST INDIAN LABOUR CONGRESS led by Mr. Hubert Critchlow, of British Guiana, was in existence.

1937 . . .

SLUMP is a permanent characteristic of a colonial economy.

By the end of 1937 our people could no longer bear the oppression and they reacted in exactly the same way as the LUDDITES did early in the 19th century.

Flames raged through the great estates in Trinidad and the winds blew northwards. In Barbados the sparks were alight and at Frome, in Jamaica, the first General Strike took place.

Characteristically, the British troops marched armed to defend the employers and the landlords. H.M.S. warships, AJAX and EXETER fouled the crystal clear Caribbean with a pool of oil, blood and debris, surmounted by a splash of red flame, that indicated the state of discontent.

The inevitable Royal Commission arrived led by Lord Moyne.

An urgent demand unanimously approved by West Indian representatives early in 1938, was for a Federal Constitution for the West Indies.

Early Vision

The earliest demands envisaged a really West Indian Federation, including the French and Dutch dependent territories. There was support from Guadelope and Surinam, but Imperialism had dug deep and barriers were so formidable between the oppressed people, that the final decisions concentrated on a Federation of the British dominated territories.

The key word in the demand from them was SOCIALIST.

Then the War

Every trick of Jingoism revived, and with flags waving 10,000 West Indians went to war against Fascism in Europe; and 90,000 to keep the farms going in the U.S.A. for the granaries of the Allied forces.

All politicical progress stood still. Sir Arthur Richards in Jamaica (now Lord Milverton) and his fellow Governors locked away the politicians and trade union leaders in concentration camps in 1942. They tried to thwart the first positive steps to unity. The reverse was the effect!

Dr. Goebbels played hell with his microphone on West Indians conditions and by March, 1944, the 3rd Congress of the British Guiana and West Indies Labour Congress was meeting to demand Federation and Self Government.

Caribbean Labour Congress

September, 1945, elected representatives from Antigua, Barbados, Bermuda, British Guiana, British Honduras, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Kitts-Nevis, St. Lucia,, St. Vincent, Surinam and Trinidad met in Bridgetown, Barbados. The old B.G. and W.I. Labour Congress, became the CARIBBEAN LABOUR CONGRESS.

In strident tones, with confident unanimity, our people demanded;

1. Federation and Self Government in a democratic form . . .
2. Social and Industrial Legislation.
3. Representation at U.N.O. and on the Anglo-American Commission.

When the Atlee-Socialists took Parliamentary power May, 1945, they put their University throw-outs to study and scheme.

Creech-Jones' arrival (1947) was the first beacon to show the way the psuedo-intellectuals were thinking.

Sir Hubert Rance, followed two years later as Chairman of the Standing Closer Association Committee. Britain's propaganda committee for stealing the Federation platform.

Federation plotting now passed into the hands of Whitehall, a prize for the age-old policy of, "divide and rule".

Imperialism breathed again . . . .

Economic Demands

With the blessing of Elizabeth I, three way trade started on the Gold Coast, West Africa, and thence across the Atlantic, returning laden with spoils to the English shores.

Cabot, Frobisher, and Hawkins seized unsuspecting Negroes, taking 50,000 in one year (1771) and bartered their human live bodies for raw cotton in the American and West Indian colonies.

Through Liverpool (built for this purpose) the Lancashire mills were fed, and finished products were traded in turn to resident slave owners.

The cycle was complete, wealth poured into the British coffers, knighthoods were bestowed. The plantations flourished, and the yeomen of England enjoyed sweetened tea.

WEST INDIES TRADE was surpassing the loot from the East Indies. Like India we shone as a jewel in the British crown against a setting of barbarity and poverty.

After the 1st World War, Lloyd George referred to us as the slums of the Empire and by this time the freemen and mulattoes of the West Indies began to look outside the spheres of sugar.

Dr. Eric Williams, TRINIDAD, Dr. Arthur Lewis, ST LUCIA, Richard Hart, JAMAICA, were only superseded by Sprostons the Bauxite capitalists in British Guiana and the London oil and asphalt companies at Point-a-Pierre and La Brea, in Trinidad.

Industrialisation Demands

Every demand for processing plants to be established in the West Indies territories was refused. Finished cotton and sugar products were costing more to consumers in the West Indies than those in the United Kingdom.

The injustice was severe. After the experiences of the late war, West Indian political and trade union leaders examined the problem more seriously.

West Indians claimed a share in the world wide upsurge for democratic rights and reasonable standards of living. Messrs. Hill and Rojas were off to Paris to the WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS, with the blessing of every West Indian. The Caribbean Labour Congress meeting in Barbados, September 1945, confirmed this representation. This same Congress demanded:

1. Scientific promotion of agricultural and industrial projects;
2. Protection of local industry against the competitive importation of similar products;
3. ". . . creation of money through a national bank . . . the borrowing by Government . . . **rather than the encouragement of direct investment by the foreign capitalist.**"
4. Public ownership of—transport, lighting, power, gas, telephone, cable and radio, and water-power resources.

Here was the true voice of the West Indian people united in action and determined to obtain the maximum good for the many. Grantley Adams, Manley, Gomes, all subscribed to this programme, running with the hare. How soon they were to run with the hounds?

By this time General Marshall, the U.S.A. millionaire and his gangsters were financially embarrassed by the cessation of hostilities in Europe and the Far East.

Knitting mills had sprung up in Jamaica and some of the Leeward Islands; shirt manufacturing had grown apace in Jamaica, Barbados and Trinidad. Boot and shoe manufacture was not far behind; furniture from the most beautiful lasting woods, including mahogany, thrived in British Honduras, Jamaica, British Guiana and elsewhere This was the threat to the exporters from the U.K., U.S.A. and Canada.

Creech-Jones, Douglas Jay, Cripps and the full-time Tory civil servants were plotting and laying political and economic plans.

The Colonial Development Corporation, Colonial Development and Welfare Funds were established. These arose from economic pressure from usurious America on the shattered British economy. They demanded the abolition of preferential tariffs for British colonials. The Yankees did not rest, the Anglo-American Commission was dressed up and presented as the CARIBBEAN COMMISSION.

These were the reconnaisance forces of the Caribbean imperialists, representing Britain, France, the U.S.A. and Holland. Sixteen commissioners, four from each power, investigated and discussed our economic resources and reported to their masters. Action to be taken executively by private capitalists who are supported by their appropriate national governments: viz., Rugby Portland Cement Co. in Trinidad, Consolidated Gold Fields, British Guiana, Sprostons, Kaiser Bauxite and Steele Bros., also in Br. Guiana.

Already it appeared to come that C.L.C. demands were being conceded.

Imperialism took another gasp . . . .

But, alas, time marches on. Now there are powerful voices throughout the islands calling for:

1. Nationalisation of all mineral wealth,
2. A Customs Union,
3. The lifting of all bans on travel and communication,
4. The abolition of nominated members in Government,
5. The disappearance of the Governors, etc., and
6. A planned economy,

—truly a Federal Self Government.

These are the possibilities for extensive develop-

(continued on next page)

ment in the British held territories of the Caribbean:

JAMAICA

SUGAR, now owned by Tate & Lyle and Jamaica Sugar Estates, producing 300,000 tons annually.

BAUXITE, estimated over 300,000,000 tons deposits, over 90% of world's supply, now wholly owned by the Canadian aluminium subsidiaries, to feed the vast plants in U.S.A. and Canada.

DOLOMITE, for the hardening of steel in vast quantities.

COPPER, MANGANESE, CEMENT and the rest, sufficient to lure the most tight-fisted capitalists in search of higher profits at the expense of lower wages.

BRITISH GUIANA

GOLD, BAUXITE, JUTE, RICE (65,000 tons annually), DOLOMITE and Uranium, each owned and controlled by foreign monopolies. Several of these enjoy capitalisation support from C.D. & W. funds like Rice, Jute and Gold.

The Yankees, however, hold secure the Bauxite and other minerals, even at the expense of the former landlords of the London Stock Exchange.

SUGAR (221,000 tons annually) remains in the hands of Booker Bros., also of African dis-repute.

TIMBER from nearly 80,000 sq. miles, is the refuge of Steele Brothers, whom the Burmese soon threw out on achieving independence.

TRINIDAD

spells O I L.

From the pitch lakes, asphalt, oil and petrol spout up to nourish the parasites that still reside in London.

SUGAR flourishes temporarily in the hands of Caroni (Tate & Lyle) and Trinidad Sugar Estates.

BARBADOS

—is completely covered with sugar estates producing fat profits. There is now frantic digging for oil, inland and off shore. At this the Yankees beat their old rivals of the Union Jack, and the Gulf Oil Company (U.S.A.) holds concessionary rights.

BRITISH HONDURAS

—supplying CHICHELE for the gum chewing Yankees, have also some of the richest forests for timber, hard and soft woods in Central America.

TIN, to the relief of the London Tin Exchange, (formerly bossed by Secretary of State for the Colonies, Oliver Lyttleton) has been discovered in quantity at Stann Creek, British Honduras.

Britain is Hamstrung

Antigua, British Honduras, St. Kitts, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, all contribute to West Indian sugar production of nearly 1,000,000 tons annually. This figure is only limited by the Black Pact of Torquay, 1951, and agreements such as GATT. Britain is our sole purchaser and Britain is hamstrung by treacherous commitments in return for the first post-war loan from the Wall Street pawnshop.

Being tide to Britain, we suffer for the exhorbitant price the U.S. demands for dollar sugar from Cuba, approximately **twice** the price we are paid for British West Indian sugar. In turn our production is limited, thereby affecting one-fifth of our entire labour force. The subsidiary production of BAGASSE in each of the territories towards a paper manufacturing and cardboard industry is an obvious ancillary to our ruling agricultural economy.

Every inch of land is either conducive to cattle ranching, dairy production, poultry keeping or market-garden production such as tomatoes, peas, beans, potatoes and every describable type of fruit.

Our agricultural production is unlimitable in this prolific tropical archipelago; industrialisation could produce miracles for 3½ million suffering people struggling for the right to live.

The land is our solution and all the riches it secrets barely a few inches below the surface. We could support a flourishing West Indian State, and be forever free from Fear, free from Want, and free from Unemployment, IF WE ARE FREE FROM FOREIGN CAPITAL.

Political Independence

"Rance Must Go" (Trinidad)
"Federation & Self-Government" (Jamaica)
"Imperialist Go Home" (British Guiana)
"Give us back our dollar" (British Honduras)
—these are the slogans that speak for the West Indian people to-day.

What progress: within half a century, a colonial people had developed mature trade unions and allied political parties.

By September 1947, the West Indian people had a clearly defined programme for FEDERATION AND SELF-GOVERNMENT.

No aspect rested untouched in the Federation Bill passed unanimously at the 1947 Conference of the CARIBBEAN LABOUR CONGRESS; the structure of the proposed Federal Parliament, (Executive Council only answerable to the wholly elected Parliament on Adult Sufferage), self-government for each unit, Federal Government to control trade and commerce, External Relations, Regional planning and economic development.

Every recorded advocate from the labour movement has always clearly stated, Federation and Self-Government. Thirty thousand people demonstrated in favour at the "largest political meeting ever seen in the West Indies" at Kingston, Jamaica, 1947.

Shame!

What disillusion spread far and wide when the treacherous Rance proposals were published? Protests saturated the Press, every West Indian voice in New York, London and the length and breadth of our homeland cried "shame".

I recall Grantley Adams, the blue-eyed boy of the I.C.F.T.U. and its Carlton/Wall Street sponsors, telling me in the Regent Palace Hotel in London, that we two were the only socialists in the West Indies, and he intended fighting tooth and nail for the original C.L.C. proposals! We were discussing the abandonment by some C.L.C. delegates of agreed policy, when they appeared before the Rance Commission on Closer Association.

Only Organised Party

The Peoples' National Party (Jamaica), presided over by Manley, allied then to the T.U.C., supported this programme. This was the only existing organised party at that time in Jamaica—notwithstanding the demagogic mass support that Bustamante enjoyed. The then West Indian National Party, Caribbean Socialist Party, Federated Workers Trade Union, the T.U.C. and the Trinidad Labour Party, all from Trinidad, paid their allegiance. From Barbados, the Labour Party, the all-embracing Workers Union and the West Indian National Congress Party, all joined in our united demand. Representatives from British Guiana, British Honduras, Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, all pledged to the 1947 C.L.C. programme and presented the case to Britain.

Some of these bodies have either since disintegrated or defaulted. The British imperialist way of life has sunken deep and wholesale bribery and corruption has played havoc with the people's national movement. This was the fate of a sincere united people, without a scientific ideological leadership.

The Rising Tide

A lasting compromise is, that, as the rotten structures fall apart, great new improved organsations take their place, for example, the Peoples Progressive Party, British Guiana, the Peoples United Party, Br. Honduras, the Peoples Political Party, St. Vincent.

Time was passing, the Indonesians had been swindled, France still waged war in Viet-Nam, the U.S.A. drove on to war in Korea, the Malayans were ruthlessly attacked, the whole colonial world was up in arms, so too BRITAIN ATTACKED THE WEST INDIES??

Freedom of association was curtailed. The Iron Curtain fell on all progressive literature.

The popular Guianese Dr. Cheddi Jagan and his wife were banned from visiting Grenada. Soon the banned lists were lengthened to include Richard Hart, Ferdinand Smith, Ken and Frank Hill, Arthur Henry and myself from Jamaica; Rojas, La Rose and O'Connor of Trinidad; Gairey of Grenada, in fact, everyone that aspired to the aims of the West Indian people, seeking Federation and Self Government NOW. (A worthwhile diversion here is, that Mr. Ken Hill, of Jamaica, though on the banned list by Iron-Curtain Rance of Trinidad, met no obstacle and was publicly fêted when he attended Port of Spain for I.C.F.T.U. ca-canny plotting.) What a price to pay to travel across our own Caribbean?

Trust Betrayed

When the undisciplined trade union bosses, Deakin, Tewson, Murray and Co. broke away from the World Federation of Trade Unions (1948) and destroyed the trade union front against capitalism, the Anglo-American fifth column starts on a wild rampage of subversive activities.

Besides Malaya, South-East Asia, India and Africa, they infiltrated into the West Indies.

First attempts were to capture the Caribbean Labour Congress. This failed and at Berlin, 1952, the next decision was to try to destroy the organsation. Although some of the leadership of this body had betrayed its trust in supporting the notorious Rance proposals; the C.L.C. programme remained on record.

It was a rallying point for every self-respecting West Indian and some elements within the C.L.C. relentlessly pursued propaganda supporting the original demands. West Indians desponded, and it was this strength that rebuffed the Anglo-American tactics.

The Class Structure

Increasingly, the West Indian people are supporting Labour leadership. Increasingly, too, they are more discerning and successfuly sorting out the patriots from the doubtfuls.

Wage labour predominates in the Caribbean, approximately 950,000 souls. Small scale peasantry has rapidly disappeared to the benefit of Tate and Lyle, Booker Bros., the Bauxite combines and other monopolies. Few small holdings exist—those that do, supplement their incomes by wage labour on the larger estates and therefore form strong links with the organised trade unions.

The small groups of local industrialists are smothered and the smaller group of shop-keepers are indebted to the big Banks—Canadian and British.

Literally a handful of local capitalists survive as agents for imperialist concerns and are securely in their debt.

Figures Suppressed

Unemployment is chronic. In 1951 the British Government in disgust shut down all the statistical departments dealing with unemployment figures. Estimates run to the half million mark. No dole, no social insurance, no old age pension, no security.

Over 200,000 would-be school children have no school accommodation. Trinidad and British Guiana tried shift systems, shortening the school hours and reducing the school leaving age. Prisons are crowded, conditions are sub-human, ten persons to a 10 ft. square cell without a stick of furntiure, prostitution, crime and corruption reach alarming proportions.

The people are suffering, and instinctively draw closer. The bonds of unity have been strengthened and every blow by any Governor, in Belize, St. John-Antigua, in Kingstown—St. Vincent, resounds throughout the islands, echoed by vociferous protests and demonstrations.

Growing Unity

Overseas service in Britain's armed forces and farming in the U.S.A. "deep south" have all contributed to this developed unity.

Poverty is the common denomination brought about mainly by King Sugar—an exacting master! The level of wages is even, and the jagged peaks of the cost-of-living tower beyond the reach of most wage earners.

All the contradictions are present. Communications have speeded up. Sweeping North Korean victories? in the earlier stages of the American aggression was received with revelry in the streets and on the savannahs. The mass of literature produced all over the world finds its way to the crowded street-corners, jammed with the unemployed—there, the lone scholar will read to his audience with much expression and feeling.

The Reckoning

When the chosen few meet in London to be instructed by Lyttleton and his team on April 13th, his task will not be as easy as even he might anticipate.

These men have to return home and some will have to face their electorate.

The wheel of progress is spinning fast—a mere handful can only be a nuisance.

The real demands of the West Indian people are:

1. Adult suffrage.
2. Self-Governing status
3. Federal Parliament based on proportional representation, with minimum representation for each territory.
4. Complete control of Home and Foreign affairs.
5. The right to decide War or Peace.

The Prime Need

We will plan for plenty; we shall return the land to the peasants, our national bank will provide credit for development, there will be no essential distinction between town and country.

Unemployment will vanish, compulsory social insurance with sufficient hospitals will provide for all. The dole will be equivalent to a living wage, every child will have a place in a clean government-controlled school. Education, elementary, secondary and technical will be free.

National borrowing and mutual trade with other co-operative Governments will boost the national production from approximately 27/- per head per week to four or five times that figure. Local manufacturers will be protected by tariffs and the nation will flourish.

For this, we need first, POLITICAL POWER.

With political power, we shall ban—yes, we will ban the entry of the Rances and the Yankee economic invaders.

We, too, will destroy the shacks in Kingston, Georgetown, Bridgetown, Port-of-Spain and St. Georges—ah, but then the former residents will move straightway into the newly built houses, like those on the hill, with modern sanitation, electricity and wide verandahs.

At the last post, all the vermin will have scattered and the West Indian people, secure in the camp of Peace and Socialism, will truly enjoy, FEDERATION AND SELF-GOVERNMENT.

West Indian Youth makes Friends in Berlin

Happy Festival of YOUTH in FRIENDSHIP

THERE will be singing and dancing in the streets of Bucharest this summer. Joyous melodies will echo from thousands of young voices in a multitude of languages.

BUCHAREST, capital of People's Rumania, will become the peace capital of the world's youth for two whole weeks when the 4th World Festival of Youth and Students for Peace and Friendship opens from August 2nd to 16th.

During the Festival tens of thousands of young people from over a hundred countries will meet as the guest of Rumanian youth.

Those who went to Berlin in 1951 for the 3rd World Festival have vivid memories of magnificent cultural shows, sports events, films, sightseeing tours, and many friends made.

In Bucharest this year, the spectacular cultural performances will be even better. The number of young people going to Bucharest will be greater than at any previous Festival.

What is the Festival

First in Prague 1947, then Budapest 1949, Berlin 1951, and now Bucharest. Every two years these Festivals of Youth have been sponsored by the World Federation of Democratic Youth and the International Union of Students, bringing young people together to compete in friendship and enjoy the best in each other's culture.

For the duration of the Festival there will be a continuous series of attractions. The events will be so numerous that it would be impossible for one person to see all of them even if he never went to sleep—what with simultaneous film shows, athletic events, cultural performances—in the open air before thousands and in the best theatres day and night, banquets, tours of factories and places of interest, meeting youth from other lands, and the indescribable electric atmosphere of young hearts beating in friendship and happiness until late into the night, dancing in the squares and streets of Bucharest. Events to suit the tastes and choices of everyone.

Who can go

Anyone can go to this international Festival. There are no bars of politics, religion, race, or colour. Any young person up to the age of 30 can go. The emphasis is peace and youth friendship in practice.

How to get there

The cost is £37 all in. This includes travel to and from Bucharest and travelling in Bucharest, all food—and the best at that!—good accommodation, and admission to all cultural performances, films, sports events, etc.

The best way is to start saving from now, and for this there is available a special savings scheme with the Festival Committee.

The first step is registration, with a deposit of £2. All interested in knowing more about the Festival and the plans of the West Indian Festival Committee for West Indians going to Bucharest should fill in the form on this page and send to West Indian Festival Committee, 17 Bishop's Bridge Road, W.2.

West Indian CULTURAL Contribution

THE youth festivals provide an excellent opportunity for young people to display their culture in song, dance, and drama to literally—the world.

We can be sure that youth from Russia, France, China, Britain, Rumania will be doing their best to uphold the culture of their lands.

West Indians also have a vital, growing culture, expressed in song, dance, poetry and drama. We should therefore grasp this opportunity to put forward a really good cultural programme in Bucharest—something that will not shame or belittle the West Indies.

Our people have found from experience that our songs and music particularly capture the hearts of others and win ready response wherever they are heard.

We are not in the position of trying to invent something from nothing. We have the material and the talent. We have only to bring both together at the right opportunity in an organised way.

TALENT

It would be an absolute triumph for the West Indies if the delegation to Bucharest includes the talent so commonly found amoung our people.

Some have thought that because of the size of our country we could not have much influence or prestige on a world scale. Whether this is so or not, can anyone say, however, that West Indians cannot play a leading part in their cultural contribution?

PLANS

The West Indian Youth Festival Committee calls upon West Indians who can contribute in some way to our cultural performance in Bucharest, to contact the committee now, so that arrangements for rehearsals and for travelling to Bucharest can be made. It is not only the professionals we are inviting, but anyone who can do a bit of something. For that matter anyone who is prepared to rehearse singing calypsoes.

A simple script will be worked out for a dramatic presentation of the West Indian people's struggle for national independence, which could be understood by non-English-speaking people—relying more on actions than words. Here is a chance for budding dramatists and script writers to come forward and exercise their talent.

The atmsophere at such a Festival is such that if West Indians don't know their songs they would be at a loss when youth of other countries are singing and doing their stuff, informally on the squares and whenever they meet each other. **So let's get organised now—West Indians!**

SPORTS

For those interested in sports, the friendly mass sporting events will provide ample enjoyment and opportunity for showing one's prowess in almost any aspect of sport.

Don't hesitate! Fill in the form on this page now! WEST INDIANS, FORWARD TO BUCHAREST!

To WEST INDIAN Festival Committee
17 Bishop's Bridge Road, London, W.2.

Please send me more details of the World Youth Festival in BUCHAREST.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

WHAT YOUTH FRIENDSHIP MEANS TO *US*

YOUNG people find it easy to make friends. It is more to one's heart for youth to meet in friendship through dancing, singing, sports, camp fires . . . rather than over the sights of rifles.

Young people are the ones who bear the burden in war, who have most to lose in cutting short and wasting their young lives. Those who profit by war have sought diligently to breed hatred and contempt in the minds of their young people to get them to fight the youth and people of other countries. They try to prevent young peoples from getting together with youth of other countries against whom they plot war. These dealers in the lives of youth would rather see young people meet in combat, to make the cash registers tinkle.

This has particularly been the method used by the rulers of colony-owning countries, inculcating in their young people contempt and callousness towards the oppressed people in the colonies. The principle "divide and rule" is the golden guide for the imperialists. For, by keeping "their" people and the colonial people apart, they are able on the one hand to exploit the colonial people and on the other hand to maintain their rule over the working people of their own countries.

Bosses benefit

For example, the British rulers were able to send Lancashire Fusiliers to hunt and shoot people in Kenya, at a time when Lancanshire was in the throes

(continued on page 6)

★ CRICKET in BRITISH GUIANA

THE five-day match between British Guiana and the touring Indian team which began on Wednesday, 4th March, was abandoned on the final day when heavy rainfall made play at Bourda impossible.

A crowd of 8,000 turned up throughout the entire match from all corners of the country to see the Indians, who are now visiting British Guiana for the first time.

British Guiana batting first scored a paltry 182 for 7 on the next day, Vinoo Mankad and S. L. Gupte in a marathon attack of 83 overs without a change, keeping down the rate of scoring. The three remaining wickets added 108 runs to reach 290. On the third day, India reached 377 for 8, but failed to push the score along after they had passed British Guiana's total.

On Saturday the start was delayed on account of rain during the morning and play was interrupted on two occasions. The Indians' total reached 398, giving them a lead of 108 runs. B.G. then hit up 82 for one wicket, Bruce Pairaudeau giving an attractive display for 54 not out, while Glendon Gibbs was 27 not out.

Outstanding batsman in British Guiana's first innings was L. Wright, who gave an outstanding performance in scoring 79. He batted soundly and confidently and was mainly responsible for his side withstanding the steady but pentrative Indian attack.

B.G's burly pace bowler, John Trim, cutting and driving powerfully, treated all the bowlers alike and compelled the majority of fieldsmen to keep duty on the borders of the boundary lines whenever he shaped up.

★

From MICHAEL V. ANNIBOURNE

★

Outstanding batsman in the Indian first innings was Vijay Manjrekar, who made 169 in 375 minutes. Though known to be an adventurous batsman, he did not live up to his reputation.

FOURTH TEST

AT the time of writing, the Fourth Test has begun A record crowd of about 15,000 enthusiastic cricket fans witnessed the opening day's play at the G.C.C. ground, Bourda, while over 1,000 others had to remain outside, being unable to gain admission. The gates had to be closed shortly after noon, and officials were forced to place extra seats.

The day was one of brilliant sunshine, the best for a week and a half, and the wicket and ground were in excellent condition.

Hazare won the toss, to give his side the big advantage of having first knock under the ideal conditions. The wicket was easy paced, although taking spin, but the batsmen failed to take full advantage, the rate of scoring being very slow at the start and at various stages throughout the day. The score at the close of play was a paltry 182 for 6 wickets, 79 of those runs being added during the last 80 minutes of play.

★ ★ ★

The Fourth Test ended in a draw.

Youth Friendship

(★from page 5)

of severe unemployment . . . illustrating that the British working people do not benefit from colonial exploitation. Only their bosses do . . . the very bosses against whom they have to struggle to protect their conditions and wages.

The picture is the same for the West Indies. The only ones who now benefit by keeping West Indians in political slavery and poverty are the handful of big companies who exploit the riches and labour of West Indians.

The Governors and their supporters are maintained by Whitehall to protect the interests of these companies who dread the unity of the British and West Indian workers . . . a unity which, when achieved, with the other colonial people of Britain's Empire, would put an end to the sway of the foreign rulers in the West Indies.

But young people are breaking through the barriers put up against their meeting in friendship. They got through Innsbruck to the Berlin Festival despite the brutality of the Yankees who tried to stop them.

Everywhere the young people of the metropolitan countries, ground down and restricted in their own opportunities for development because of the wars of their rulers against the colonial people, are extending their hands in friendship to the young people in the colonies struggling for their national independence.

So also are the progressive youth of Britain holding out their hands in friendship to West Indian youth. They are calling for an end to the wars against the peoples of Malaya, Kenya and Korea, for full freedom for the peoples in Britain's colonies, including the West Indies.

They are seeing this in direct connection with their campaign to cut the 2-year call-up. They say that if 2 years' conscription is necessary, as the Government claims, because of the commitments in Malaya, Kenya, Egypt and Korea . . . they are saying to their Government; **then end these commitments!**

And more and more young people in Britain are coming to realise this. As Ben Birnbaum said in report on the Festival at Nottingham, "Friendship means allowing others to have the rights you have yourselves . . . The colonial people don't want to take an examination for political freedom."

If we West Indians, on our part, are also clear on the need for building friendship with young people of other countries, and particularly with the young people of Britain, then we will be on the road to forging the doom of British Imperialism.

In Bucharest this August we shall have the opportunity to demonstrate our friendship, in practice, with the young people of all lands.

PRITT WELCOMED BACK FROM KENYA

OVER two thousand people, including many from the colonies—Africa, West Indies, etc.—welcomed D. N. PRITT, Q.C., on his return from Kenya, at the Royal Hotel, London.

Mr. Pritt spoke briefly, thanking those present, but said he could not talk about politics in Kenya as the case was not finished and he might have to go back there.

Mr. Koinange officially welcomed this courageous and indefatigable fighter, expressing the appreciation all colonial people felt for his heroic defence of the people's leaders in Kenya, including Yomo Kenyatta.

It was a fitting tribute to a Briton who has tirelessy defended the colonial peoples against the legal attacks of imperialism.

During the reception, many colonial students and workers took the opportunity to speak to Mr. Pritt and express personally their appreciation for his good work.

What West Indians want from

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